

Appl. No. 10/029,115
Amdt. dated December 13, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 13, 2006

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached 20 sheets of drawings includes Fig. 1-15, which replaces the original sheets including Fig. 1-15. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

With this amendment, claims 2, 3 and 16-28 are pending. For convenience, the Examiner's rejections are addressed in the order presented in a September 13, 2006, Office Action.

I. Objections to the drawings

The Office Action objected to the drawings for a variety of reasons. In order to expedite prosecution, corrected drawings are submitted with this response.

II. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 2, 3, and 16-28 are rejected as indefinite because the terms "MINK3" and "ERK" are allegedly unclear. In order to expedite prosecution, Claims 2, 16, 19 and 23 are amended to recite "a misshapen/NIKS-related kinase 3 (MINK3) protein". Support for these amendments is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 4, lines 24-26. Claim 25 is amended to recite "an extracellular signal response kinase (ERK) protein". Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 1-3. These amendments add no new matter.

In view of the above amendment, withdrawal of the rejections for alleged indefiniteness is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

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Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments
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